AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 13 and 39. Please add claims 40-44. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for activating ~~a membrane of~~ muscle, skeletal, receptor tyrosine kinase (MuSK) in a cell, comprising contacting the cell with a biglycan therapeutic in an amount effective to potentiate agrin-induced phosphorylation of MuSK ~~muscle, skeletal, receptor tyrosine kinase (MuSK),~~ wherein the cell has an abnormal dystrophin-associated protein complex (DAPC) ~~exhibits defective clustering of acetylcholine receptor (AChR)~~, wherein ~~the biglycan therapeutic activates a membrane of~~ MuSK is activated in the cell.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic upregulates utrophin levels.

17-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic is a polypeptide including a biglycan amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 9.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence includes one or more Leucine Rich Repeats (LRRs) of human biglycan having SEQ ID NO: 9.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the polypeptide is derivatized with one or more glycosaminoglycan (GAG) side chains.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is at least about 90% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is at least about 95% identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the cell is a muscle cell.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising assaying activity of MuSK ~~muscle, skeletal, receptor tyrosine kinase (MuSK), wherein elevated activity of MuSK indicates activation of the membrane of the cell~~.

40. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic binds to alpha-sarcoglycan and gamma-sarcoglycan.

41. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic stimulates phosphorylation of alpha-sarcoglycan on a cell membrane.

42. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is identical to amino acids 38-365 of SEQ ID NO: 9.

43. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the biglycan amino acid sequence is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes under stringent conditions of 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45 °C to a complementary strand of SEQ ID NO: 8.

44. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the biglycan therapeutic stabilizes dystrophin-associated protein complexes (DAPCs) on the cell surface.